

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 11, 20, 30, and 44 are the only independent claims.

Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-40 stand subject to a Restriction Requirement according to which the Examiner has divided the claims into three groups, namely, Group I including claims 20-44 directed to a method for the treatment of hemorrhoids providing an anoscope and a hemorrhoid occlusion device, Group II containing claims 1-10 drawn to an ansoscope, and Group III having claims 11-19 concerning a surgical instrument for tissue occlusion.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 20-44, for continued prosecution in the application.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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